

Tower Grove Park Shelter Eighteen  
(Well House)  
Tower Grove Park  
4255 Arsenal Street  
St. Louis  
Missouri

HABS No. MO-1137-N

HABS  
MO,  
96-SALV,  
46N-

PHOTOGRAPH  
REDUCED COPY OF MEASURED DRAWING  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MO-1137-N

TOWER GROVE PARK SHELTER EIGHTEEN  
(Well House)

Location: Park headquarters at 4255 Arsenal Street, St. Louis, Missouri. The shelter lies 1200' east of the central cross drive on the south side of the main east-west drive, within the original boundaries of Tower Grove Park.

USGS Webster Groves Quadrangle. Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 15.739110.4276370

Present Owner: City of St. Louis.

Present Use: Public picnic shelter.

Significance: The structure is a well-preserved example of the picturesque and eclectic design favored by British and American landscape architects in the nineteenth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Spring of 1871 (Board Minutes, 1/31/1871, p.26).
2. Architect: Eugene L. Greenleaf (Tower Grove Park Comptroller's Report 1886, p.122, payment for drawing plans, 6/27/71). For biography, see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1137).
3. Original and subsequent owners: The City of St. Louis. For property description see the HABS report on Tower Grove Park (MO-1137).
4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: Benjamin Lynds was paid \$725 for carpentry work at the second turnout, south side (Comp. 1868, p.120, 6/17/71). He was supplied with lumber by the Eau Claire Company of St. Louis (Comptroller 1868, p.112, 5/4/71).
5. Original plans, construction, etc.: This is one of four shelters now known as numbers seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, and twenty, constructed in pairs facing each other on the north and south edges of the main east-west drive. These were always intended to be picnic shelters (Shaw Synopsis). Seventeen and eighteen are similar octagonal structures with cupolas; nineteen and twenty are identical, T-shaped temple forms.
6. Additions and alterations: In compliance with the City Board of Health order of 1915, the well was closed (Annual Report of Board of Commissioners, 1915, 1/19/1916, p.10) Probably little of the original wooden fabric remains due to innumerable repairs and replacement of rotted members.

B. Sources of Information

1. Primary and unpublished Sources:

Manuscripts, etc.: Tower Grove Park Receipts and Vouchers 1868-1889; Henry Shaw's Synopsis of Work Done in Park 1868-1872 his Reports as Comptroller, Books 1868, 1875, 1882, and 1888; and the reports of the Park Board of Commissioners from 1869-1898 are in the custody of Park Superintendent Miss Bernice E. Gurney, and will probably be transferred from her office at 4274 Magnolia Avenue to the Shaw Manuscript collection in the John S. Lehmann Library in the Missouri Botanical Garden, 2345 Tower Grove Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri by the end of the summer of 1974.

Deed Books: City Hall, Market Street, St. Louis, Missouri.

State Census Reports, State Historical Library, Columbia, Mo.

2. Secondary Sources:

Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners Tower Grove Park.  
St. Louis: Nixon-Jones-Printing, 1899-1919.

\_\_\_\_\_. St. Louis: Arcade Print Shop, 1920.

\_\_\_\_\_. St. Louis: Mound City Press, 1921-1942.

\_\_\_\_\_. St. Louis: Allied Printing, 1943-1959.

Edward's St. Louis Directories. St. Louis: Edwards Co., 1847-1865.

Gould's St. Louis Directories. St. Louis: David R. Gould, 1866-1879.

MacAdam, David H. Tower Grove Park. St. Louis: R.P. Studley and Co., 1883.

Prepared by: Carolyn Hamm  
Field Historian  
National Park Service  
St. Louis, Missouri  
July, 1974

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This shelter is one of a pair of similar octagonal pavilions which were constructed to serve as both well houses and picnic shelters. It is noted for its color and elaborate moldings.
2. Condition of fabric: Good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Octagonal shape. Each of the eight bays is approximately 12'-6" wide. The structure is 26'-8" high.
2. Wall construction, finish and color: Eight cedarwood octagonal columns painted chocolate brown, support round arches painted light tan. Two triangles are cut out of the spandrels leaving vertical members in their center. Rounded capital-like moldings on the columns mark the spring point. Large scrolls painted chocolate brown spring from the same point and project out to carry the cornice.
3. Structural system: Wooden framing.
4. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: The octagonal low pitched standing seam roof has an octagonal cupola. The roof is covered with sheet metal painted red.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: A soffit runs under the fascia and cornice.
  - c. Cupola: The octagonal cupola has scallop-edged, louvered air vents painted black, and a cornice with intricately carved brackets painted tan. It has a domed roof of sheet metal painted gray.

C. Descriptions of Interior:

1. Floor plan: Open octagonal plan.
2. Flooring: The floor is brick, set in a herring bone pattern.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: There are exposed rafters and the octagonal drum is constructed of tongue and groove wood.

- D. Site: The pavilion is now used as a picnic shelter easily accessible from a macadamized walkway. It lies 1200' east of the central cross drive. It is one of four paired shelters arranged facing each other at the north and south edges of the main east-west drive.

Prepared by: Peter Dessauer  
Field Historian  
National Park Service  
August, 1975

### PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Tower Grove Park and Missouri Botanical Garden Project was jointly sponsored by the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National Park Service, the Board of Commissioners of Tower Grove Park, and the Board of Trustees of the Missouri Botanical Gardens.

Recorded under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS, and Kenneth L. Anderson, HABS Principal Architect, the project was conducted during the summer of 1974 and 1975 at the Historic American Buildings Survey field office at the Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis.

1974 Team: Robert Harvey, Project Supervisor, (Landscape Architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, architect, (University of Kansas); Carolyn Hamm, project historian, (Cornell University); Patrick Ackerman, student assistant architect, (Washington University); Suzanne Fauber, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Virginia); and Carol Macht, student assistant landscape architect, (University of Michigan).

1975 Team: Stuart Mertz, A.S.L.A., project supervisor, (landscape architect); Steven Bauer, Project Foreman, (Columbia University); Peter Dessauer, project historian, (Clemson University); Lennard A. Roberts, student assistant architect, (Cornell University); John R. Temmink, student assistant architect, (University of Virginia); and Theodore Torpy, landscape architect, (WASO).

The drawings were revised by HABS architect Paul Dolinsky, and the written data were edited by HABS Architectural Historian Denys Peter Myers, in the HABS Washington office in 1983. The photographs were taken by HABS/HAER Photographer Jet Lowe in 1983.